Air, water and noise pollution in Maharashtra

188. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present level of Urban air, water and noise pollution in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) whether Government have chalked out any time bound concrete programme to deal with the crisis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The relevant information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) The Government have initiated various steps to control pollution including the following:

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check air, water and noise pollution.

(ii) Industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipments in a time bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(iii) Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) have been installed in the industrial estates at Tarapur, Thane Belapur, Taloja, Dombivili, Ambernath and Jaysingpur.

(iv) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipments and shifting of industries from congested areas.

(v) Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 is in force governing environmental appraisal of 29 specified categories of development projects.

(vi) Environmental Guidelines have been evolved for siting of industries.

(vii) National River Action Plan provides for wastewater collection and treatment at Nashik, Nanded, Sangli and Karad to save the rivers of Godavari and Krishna.

(viii) Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and are being enforced by the Department of Transport in various urban areas.

(ix) For control of pollution from vehicles, emission norms for both petrol and diesel driven vehicles at the manufacturing stage were introduced for the first time in 1990 and made tighter in 1996. More stringent emission norms will come into effect from 1.4.2000.

(x) CNG is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Mumbai to cater to the CNG fitted vehicles.

(xi) Ambient noise standards in respect of industrial, commercial, residential areas and silence zone have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(xii) A notification on Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 has been issued on 14.2.2000 to check noise pollution from all sources.

(xiii) The Urban Development Department, Government of Maharashtra has made it mandatory for Municipal Corporations to prepare environmental annual report which will help for generating the data regarding status of environment in the urban areas and preparing Environmental Management Plans for the cities.

(xiv) An Environmental Action Plan to control pollution in Mumbai Metropolitan Region has been prepared and is being implemented by the Government of Maharashtra.